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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SOUTH LAKE TAHOE SCHOOL TEACHER INDICTED FOR PRODUCING,
DISTRIBUTING, AND POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

SACRAMENTO-- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned a ten-count indictment today charging KARSTEN GRONWOLD, 49, of South Lake Tahoe, with producing, distributing, and possessing depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. He is scheduled to be arraigned at 2:00 P.M. today before Magistrate Judge Gregory G. Hollows.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the Sacramento Valley Hi-Tech Crimes Task Force and the El Dorado County Sheriff's Department. It resulted from complaints made to the National Center of Missing & Exploited Children's CyberTipline (www.cybertipline.com or 1-800-843-5678). The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children is a congressionally mandated national clearinghouse that gathers information about missing and sexually exploited children for law enforcement use.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Camil A. Skipper, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that GRONWOLD, a second grade teacher in South Lake Tahoe, produced an image he entitled "playingwithme.jpg," depicting a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The indictment further alleges that he distributed that image and others in 2005. The indictment also alleges that GRONWOLD possessed child pornography images on September 1, 2006, the date of his arrest.

If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for producing a visual depiction of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct is 20 years in prison, with a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 10 years. (These minimum and maximum penalties assume that the image was produced in 2001 before the United States Congress increased statutory penalties for this offense.) The maximum penalty for distributing child pornography is 20 years in prison, with a mandatory minimum term of 5 years. The maximum penalty for possessing such images is 10 years in prison. In total, the maximum penalty GRONWOLD faces if convicted of all charges in the indictment is 190 years in prison. However, the actual sentence imposed by the court will take into account the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and a number of other factors. The indictment also contains a forfeiture allegation that could result in GRONWOLD's forfeiture of certain computer equipment.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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